YSLAIRE

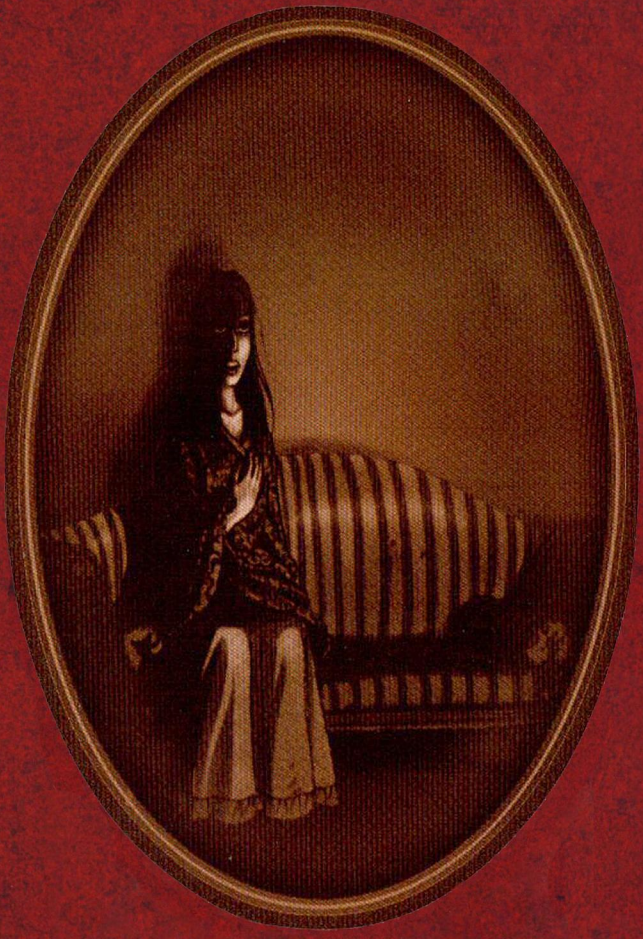
SAMBRE

Liberty, Liberty...

III

Glénat

YSLAIRE



CHAPTER 3 – THE SECOND GENERATION (1847 – 1848)

SAMBRE

Liberty, Liberty...

Testi
YSLAIRE
con la partecipazione di **BALAC**

Disegni e colori
YSLAIRE

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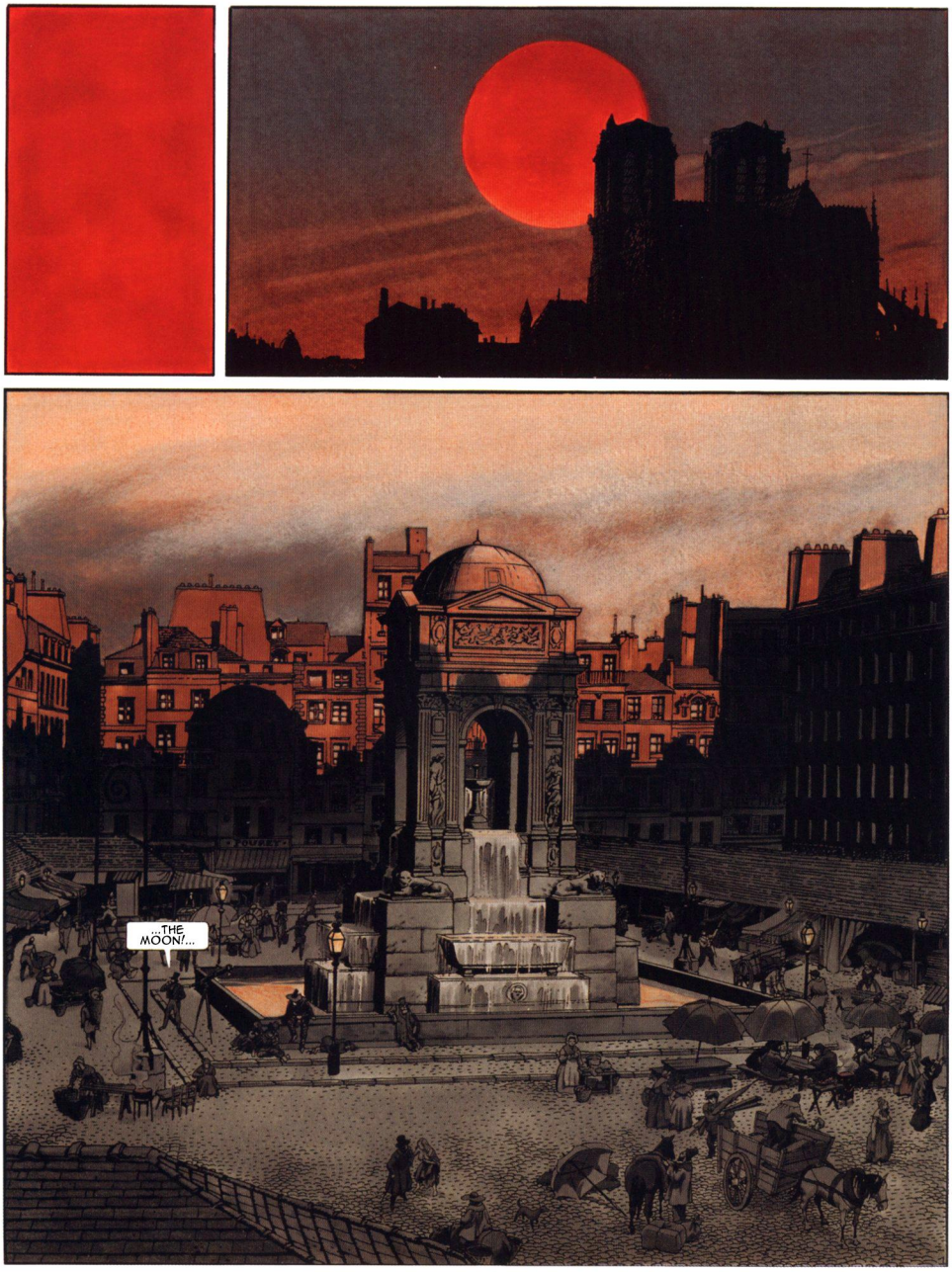
...THE MOON!...

...COME VIEW THE MOON!...

TEN PENCE TO VIEW THE MOON!!...

SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY, MY FRIEND! THE MOON IS RED THIS MORNING!
COME OFF IT, YOU OLD CON MAN! THAT'S THE SUNRISE!
WHO COULD SAY, MY FRIEND?...
...ANYTHING GOES IN INNOCENTS' MARKET!
OI, ARTIST! WINE! I'M THIRSTY!
HEY!!
ARE YOU MAD? THAT'S ME LAST BOTTLE!
A SIMPLE SUCCESS TO THE SIMPLE MAN, THEY SAY. YET...
SIMPLE THINGS PLEASE SIMPLE MINDS.
EGON VALDIEU! I KNEW YOU'D COME!!

NO KIDDING?
NO KIDDING! I KNOW YOU, AND I KNEW YOU'D COME JOIN US!
HISTORY IS IN THE MAKING AND YOU COULDN'T HOLD IT BACK IF YOU TRIED. I KNOW YOU LIKE TO STAY ON THE CUTTING EDGE...
DID YOU SPEND ALL NIGHT DRINKING TO WORK UP YOUR COURAGE?
YOU JUST KNOW EVERYTHING, EH RODOLPH?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW IF LOUIS-PHILIPPE WILL STILL HAVE HIS THRONE TOMORROW...
BASSET... LEROUGE! AND THE GROUP FROM THE SAINT HONORE DISTRICT!!... LOOK, THEY ALL CAME!
I'VE HEARD THEY'RE MOBILIZING GREAT NUMBERS OF TROOPS...
WILL THE PEOPLE FOLLOW US? THAT'S THE QUESTION.
HAVE CONFIDENCE, COMRADES! WE'LL LEAD THEM!
...WE'RE ONE HUNDRED STRONG NOW, AND IN AN HOUR WE'LL NUMBER ONE THOUSAND! THE PEAR IS RIPE FOR THE PICKING! A NEW SEASON IS DAWNING!
...ALL STUDENTS AND YOUNG MEN, IMPASSIONED WITH THE SAME DESIRE, THE SAME SUFFERING... FOR THE REPUBLIC... HEY RODOLPHE, HOW MANY DO YOU THINK ARE SEEING THEIR LAST SUNRISE RIGHT NOW?

...A FEW MARTYRS WOULD ONLY FURTHER SUCH A NOBLE CAUSE...
I CAN'T STAND YOU, EGON! I HATE YOU!
C'MON, RODOLPHE, I THOUGHT WE WERE ALL BROTHERS!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? WHERE ARE YOU GOING??
HOME. WHEN I'VE GOT INSPIRATION, I HAVE TO PAINT. I CAN'T HELP IT!
...YOU CONVINCED ME, BY THE WAY! LIBERTY, EQUALITY, BROTHERHOOD... WHY NOT? A WHOLE HOST OF EXCITING TRAGEDIES TO PAINT!
PEOPLE OF FRANCE! LISTEN TO ME!
YOU'RE MAD, EGON! A PAINTING IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR BLOOD SPILLED!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF BLOOD RED IN THIS ONE...
PAW
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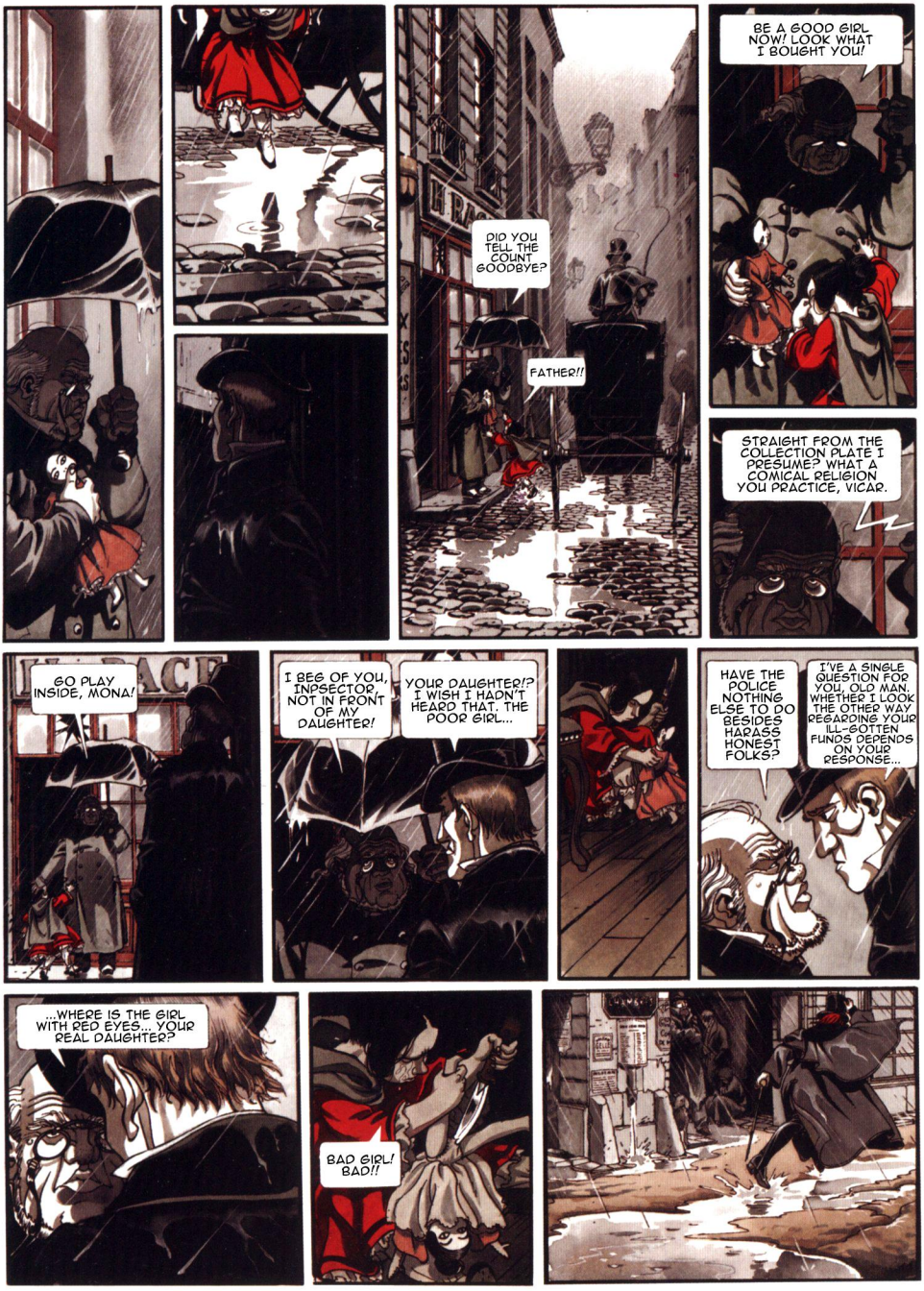
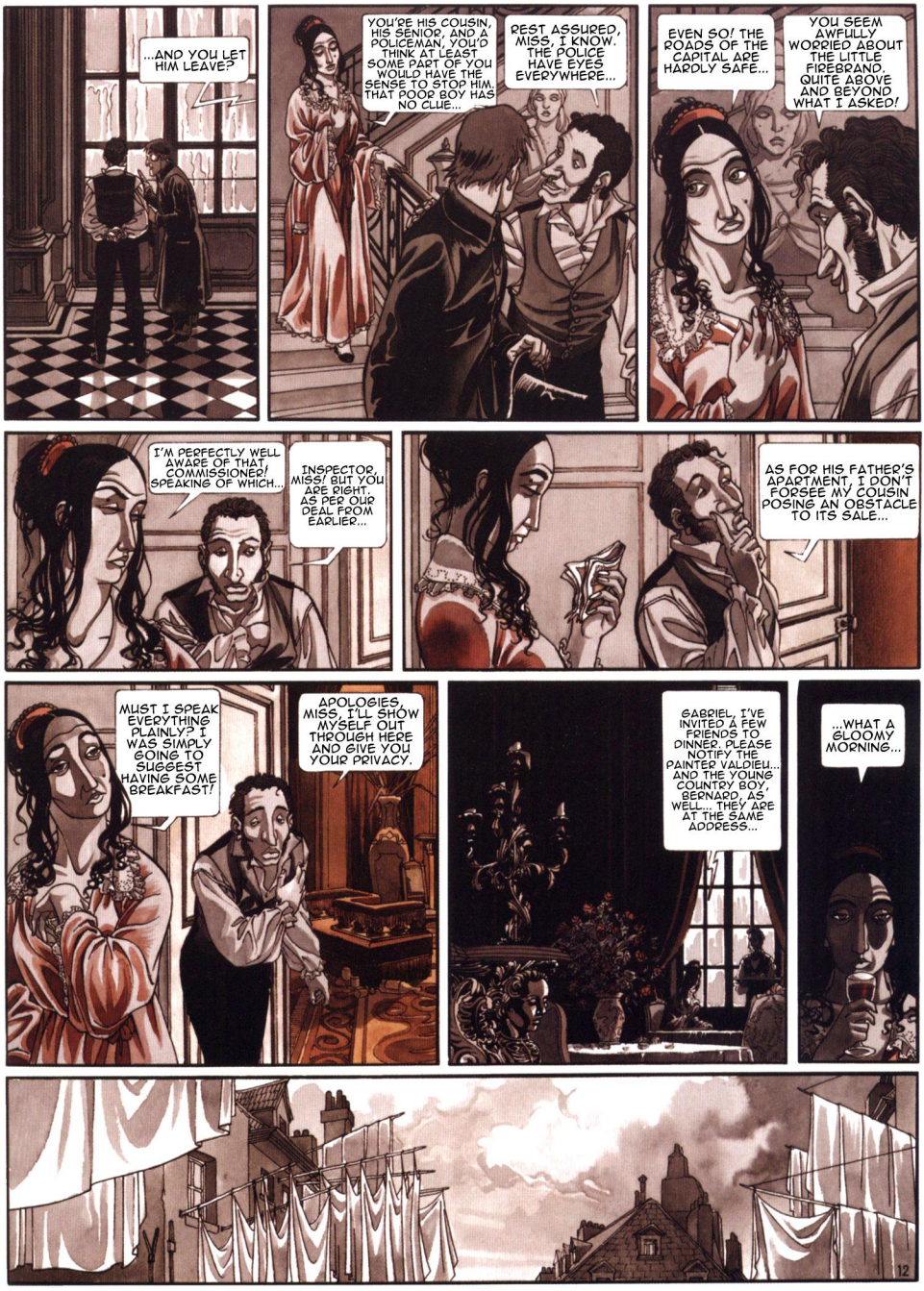
TN: TO EXPLOIT A LOOPHOLE IN LAWS THAT MADE POLITICAL ASSEMBLY AND DISSIDENCE ILLEGAL IN FRANCE, THE MIDDLE CLASS HELD BANQUETS WHERE CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING AND OPEN CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE PLACE.

IS IT JUST THAT THE MINORITY DECIDES FOR THE MAJORITY, APPOINTS LAWS THAT ALLOW IT TO DEFEND ITS OWN INTERESTS WHILE DEFILING AND DEPRIVING THE POLITICAL RIGHTS OF OTHERS?...
IS IT JUST THAT THOSE WHO HAVE EVERYTHING DON'T WORK, WHILE THE WORKERS HAVE NOTHING?
OH? SO YOU DIDN'T RUN AWAY?
WHERE WOULD I GO?
I TRULY DON'T UNDER-STAND YOU...
...BUT EVEN SO, I NEED YOU...
WHAT KIND OF MOTHER WOULD EAT HER CHILDREN'S MEALS AND FEED THEM ONLY THE SCRAPS?...

...PEOPLE OF FRANCE! MY MOTHER WOULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING!...
...FOR MY MOTHER IS THE REPUBLIC!
PAINT ME!
YOU'LL BE MY GREATEST WORK!

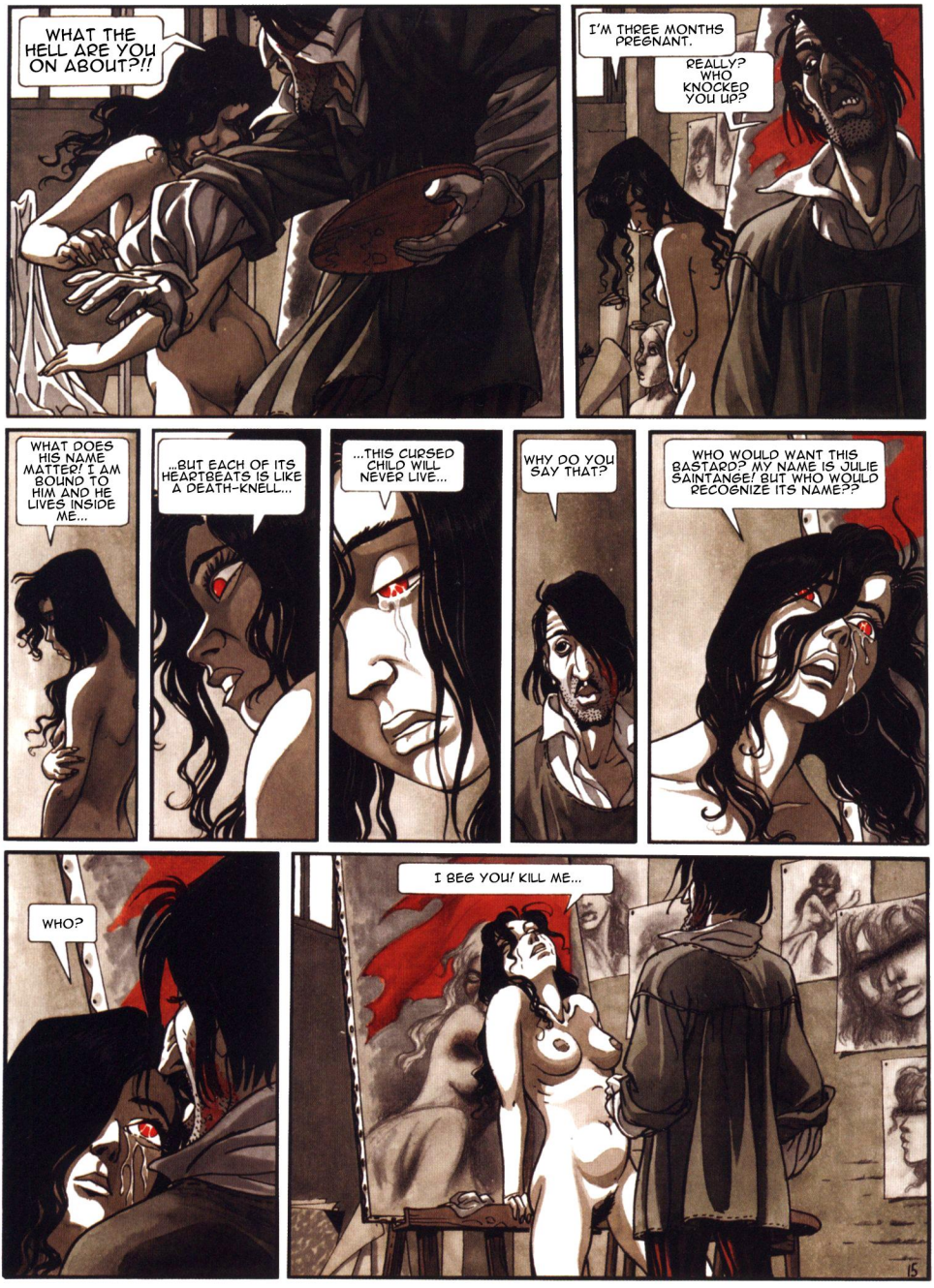
WON'T YOU SLEEP A LITTLE LONGER?
I DIDN'T SLEEP AT ALL, MA'AM.
YOU DIDN'T? THAT'S AN AWFUL SHAME!
YOU WERE WRONG, I COULDN'T FORGET HER...
YES, YES, QUITE A SHAME, DEAR...
COUSIN BERNARD!...
LIBERTY IS CALLING YOU WITH OPEN ARMS AND YOU'RE LEAVING? JUST THIS MOMENT THE PEOPLE OF PARIS ARE CHANTING HER NAME IN THE STREETS...
OF COURSE, LIBERTY ISN'T LISTENING ... SHE'S SLEEPING IN TODAY ...
I MEAN IT THOUGH, I WOULDN'T GO IF I WERE YOU, COUSIN BERNARD!
YOU WON'T FIND ANY CARRIAGES. WHEN THERE'S PROTESTS IN THE STREETS EVERYONE LIES LOW... UNTIL THE CANONS CLEAN THINGS UP!
SO IT'S HAPPENING? THE REVOLUTION?
THESE DAYS? YOU MUST BE JOKING. REVOLUTION IS SOMETHING YOU ONLY READ ABOUT IN SHAKESPEARE. PARISIANS ARE ALL GUTLESS...
THERE, YOU SEE? EVEN THE WEATHER'S AGAINST THEM...


DID YOU TELL THE COUNT GOODBYE?
FATHER!!
BE A GOOD GIRL NOW! LOOK WHAT I BOUGHT YOU!
STRAIGHT FROM THE COLLECTION PLATE I PRESUME? WHAT A COMICAL RELIGION YOU PRACTICE, VICAR.
GO PLAY INSIDE, MONA!
I BEG OF YOU, INPSECTOR, NOT IN FRONT OF MY DAUGHTER!
YOUR DAUGHTER!? I WISH I HADN'T HEARD THAT. THE POOR GIRL...
HAVE THE POLICE NOTHING ELSE TO DO BESIDES HARASS HONEST FOLKS?
I'VE A SINGLE QUESTION FOR YOU, OLD MAN. WHETHER I LOOK THE OTHER WAY REGARDING YOUR ILL-GOTTEN FUNDS DEPENDS ON YOUR RESPONSE...
...WHERE IS THE GIRL WITH RED EYES... YOUR REAL DAUGHTER?
BAD GIRL! BAD!!


...AND YOU LET HIM LEAVE?
YOU'RE HIS COUSIN, HIS SENIOR, AND A POLICEMAN, YOU'D THINK AT LEAST SOME PART OF YOU WOULD HAVE THE SENSE TO STOP HIM. THAT POOR BOY HAS NO CLUE...
REST ASSURED, MISS, I KNOW. THE POLICE HAVE EYES EVERYWHERE...
EVEN SO! THE ROADS OF THE CAPITAL ARE HARDLY SAFE...
YOU SEEM AWFULLY WORRIED ABOUT THE LITTLE FIREBRAND. QUITE ABOVE AND BEYOND WHAT I ASKED!
I'M PERFECTLY WELL AWARE OF THAT, COMMISSIONER! SPEAKING OF WHICH...
INSPECTOR, MISS! BUT YOU ARE RIGHT. AS PER OUR DEAL FROM EARLIER...
AS FOR HIS FATHER'S APARTMENT, I DON'T FORSEE MY COUSIN POSING AN OBSTACLE TO ITS SALE...
MUST I SPEAK EVERYTHING PLAINLY? I WAS SIMPLY GOING TO SUGGEST HAVING SOME BREAKFAST!
APOLOGIES, MISS. I'LL SHOW MYSELF OUT THROUGH HERE AND GIVE YOU YOUR PRIVACY.
GABRIEL, I'VE INVITED A FEW FRIENDS TO DINNER. PLEASE NOTIFY THE PAINTER VALDIEU... AND THE YOUNG COUNTRY BOY, BERNARD, AS WELL... THEY ARE AT THE SAME ADDRESS...
...WHAT A GLOOMY MORNING...

HOW MANY SKETCHES HAVE YOU MADE? HOW MANY FALSE STARTS?...

SO NOW YOU SPEAK? YOU HAVE SOME-WHERE TO BE?
I'M COLD, NAKED, AND THE IMAGE OF MY FLESH LIES STREWN ACROSS YOUR FLOOR LIKE SO MUCH ANIMAL HIDE...
I BEG YOU, FINISH THIS PAINTING! HAVE YOU NOT STRIPPED ME ENOUGH?
I'M DOING YOUR PORTRAIT, YOU SIMPLETON!
I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS... TWO MONTHS OF STARING AT ME, DISSECTING ME... WHAT MORE COULD YOU TAKE FROM ME?
MY SOUL, LIKE YOU SAID...
...THAT TINY SPECTRE THAT LEAVES YOU ON THE DAY OF YOUR DEMISE... GO ON, TOUCH IT! FEEL IT!...
...IT STILL LIVES INSIDE ME...
...DO YOU FEEL IT STRUGGLING?


WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU ON ABOUT?!!
I'M THREE MONTHS PREGNANT.
REALLY? WHO KNOCKED YOU UP?
WHAT DOES HIS NAME MATTER! I AM BOUND TO HIM AND HE LIVES INSIDE ME...
...BUT EACH OF ITS HEARTBEATS IS LIKE A DEATH-KNELL...
...THIS CURSED CHILD WILL NEVER LIVE...
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
WHO WOULD WANT THIS BASTARD? MY NAME IS JULIE SAINTANGE! BUT WHO WOULD RECOGNIZE ITS NAME??
WHO?
I BEG YOU! KILL ME...

...END IT...
DO I DISGUST YOU THAT MUCH?
FINE! FINE! YOU CAN GET DRESSED! AT THIS POINT ALL I NEED IS YOUR FACE!
YE LOOKIN FOR A WOMAN?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?
THE NOSE ALWAYS KNOWS!
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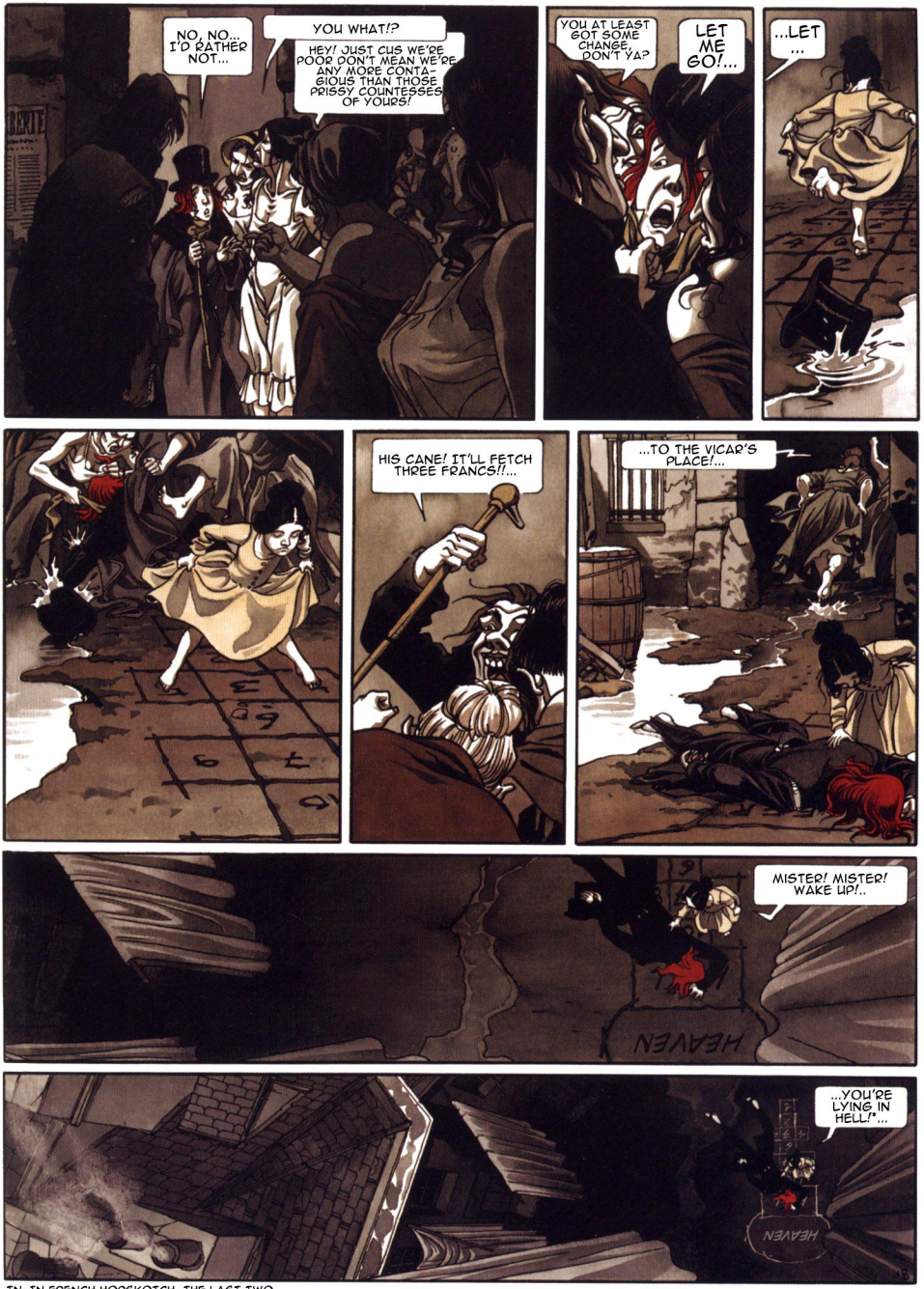
TELL ME WHAT YE'RE LOOKIN FOR. I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
IMPOSSIBLE'S NOT IN A FRENCHMAN'S VOCABULARY. THE EMPEROR USED TO SAY! LEONIE KNOWS ALL THE GIRLS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD! SO? BLOND, BRUNETTE...?
BLACK HAIR, WITH...
...WITH...? DON'T BE SHY, DEARIE!
...WITH RED EYES!
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?
BECAUSE I KNOW WHERE TO FIND 'ER!
ARE YOU SURE THAT...
WHAT DID I TELL YE! LOOK!
...THEY ALL HAVE RED EYES!!
...AND FOR TWENTY PENCE YE CAN BEAT 'EM! YES, THEY RIGHT LIKE THAT! THEY'LL EVEN COY FOR YE!... SO? WHAT'LL IT BE?



TN: IN FRENCH HOPSKOTCH, THE LAST TWO SPACES ARE LABELED HELL AND HEAVEN.

TN: LINES FROM A POEM BY ALPHONSE DE LAMARTINE CALLED LA PRÉLUDE (EN: THE PRELUDE)

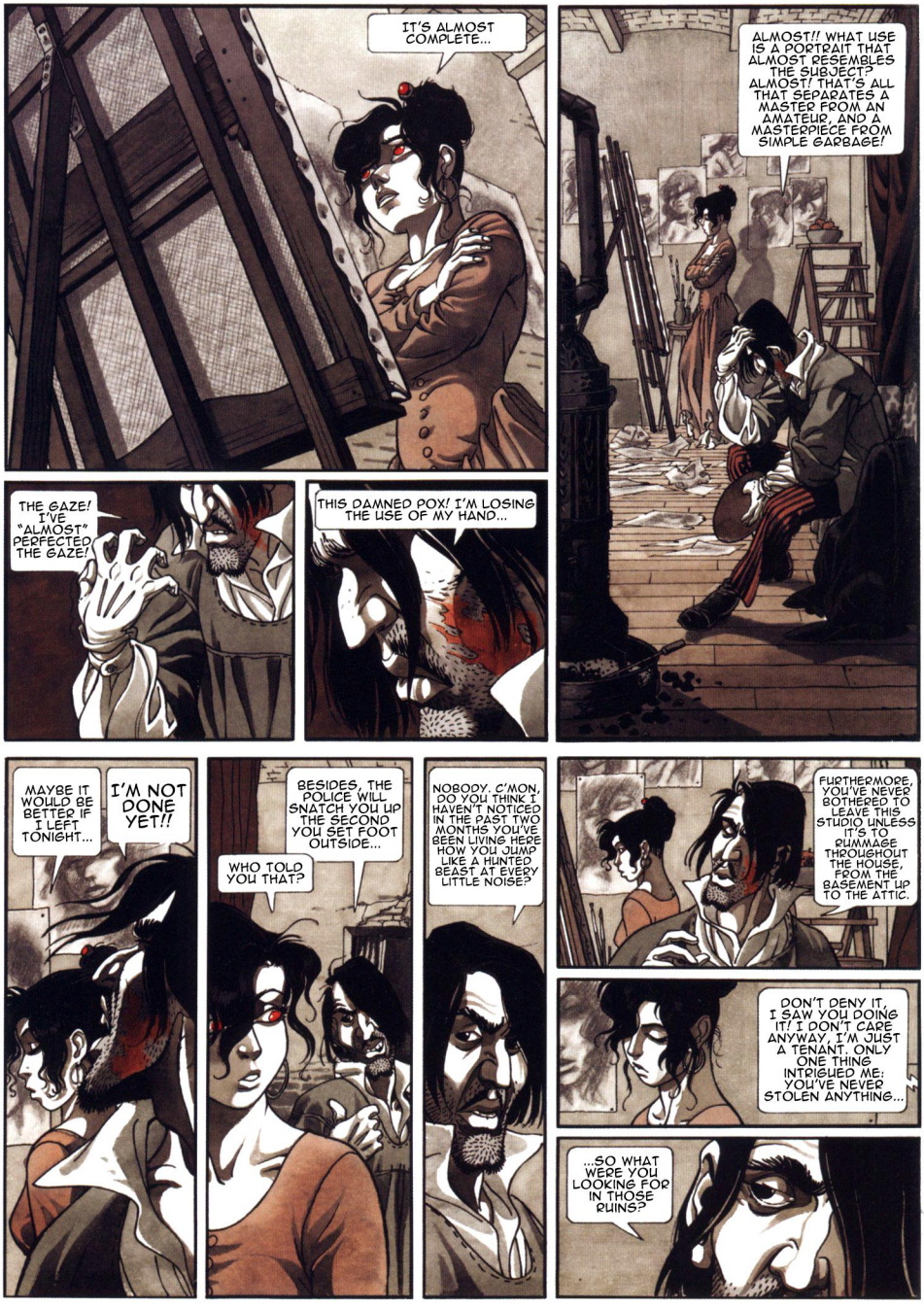
SO YOU KNEW MY FATHER?
I AM HIS ONLY FRIEND, HORACE SAINTANGE.
...THAT HAIR, THAT FACE... YOU LOOK SO MUCH LIKE HIM... SIT DOWN AND TELL ME ABOUT HIM! HOW IS HE DOING?
YOU DON'T KNOW? HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR THREE MONTHS.
WHO KILLED HIM?
NOBODY DID! HE COMMITTED SUICIDE!
YOU'RE LYING!!
I... I SWEAR TO YOU...
I APOLOGIZE, GRIEF OVERTOOK MY SENSES...
HERE, TAKE BACK YOUR CANE... TELL ME HOW THIS HAPPENED.
COME ON, DON'T BE AFRAID! YOU CAN TELL ME! DO YOU HEAR ME? TELL ME EVERYTHING!! I'M CALM NOW...
I... I WAS TOLD HE GOUGED OUT HIS EYES, AND...
HIS EYES! YES, OF COURSE...
SO THAT'S HOW THE WIDOW GOT HER REVENGE...

WHAT WIDOW? IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO MY MOTHER, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW SHE WAS KILLED THE DAY AFTER MY FATHER'S BURIAL...
YOU POOR, POOR BOY! SO YOU REALLY KNOW NOTHING OF YOUR FATHER?
...I'M REFERRING TO THE WIDOW THAT LIVED WITHIN HIS WALLS, IN PARIS! HUGO IMPRISONED HER THERE!!
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AS EARLY AS THE MIDDLE AGES PEOPLE WOULD IMPRISON YOUNG GIRLS ON INNOCENTS' STREET... HAVEN'T YOU READ "THE WAR OF EYES"?
"...From the day their hymen breaks, they know but one desire, to see you someday bleed as they did..."
"...Heiresses only of pain, slaves to their fate, they know that, sooner or later, they will be widows with red eyes..."
ENOUGH! SHUT UP! I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS!!
"...that they may write on your gravestone: He loved me!..."
YOU'RE MAD! MAD!!
TO SEE YOU LIE TO YOURSELF LIKE THAT REMINDS ME OF YOUR FATHER AT FIFTEEN!...
...SO TAKE CARE, YOUNG SAMBRE! WHEREVER YOU GO, HIS WIDOW WILL ALWAYS RESIDE WITH YOU...
...MAD!!
...FOR THE WAR OF EYES IS ETERNAL AND WITHOUT MERCY!!!

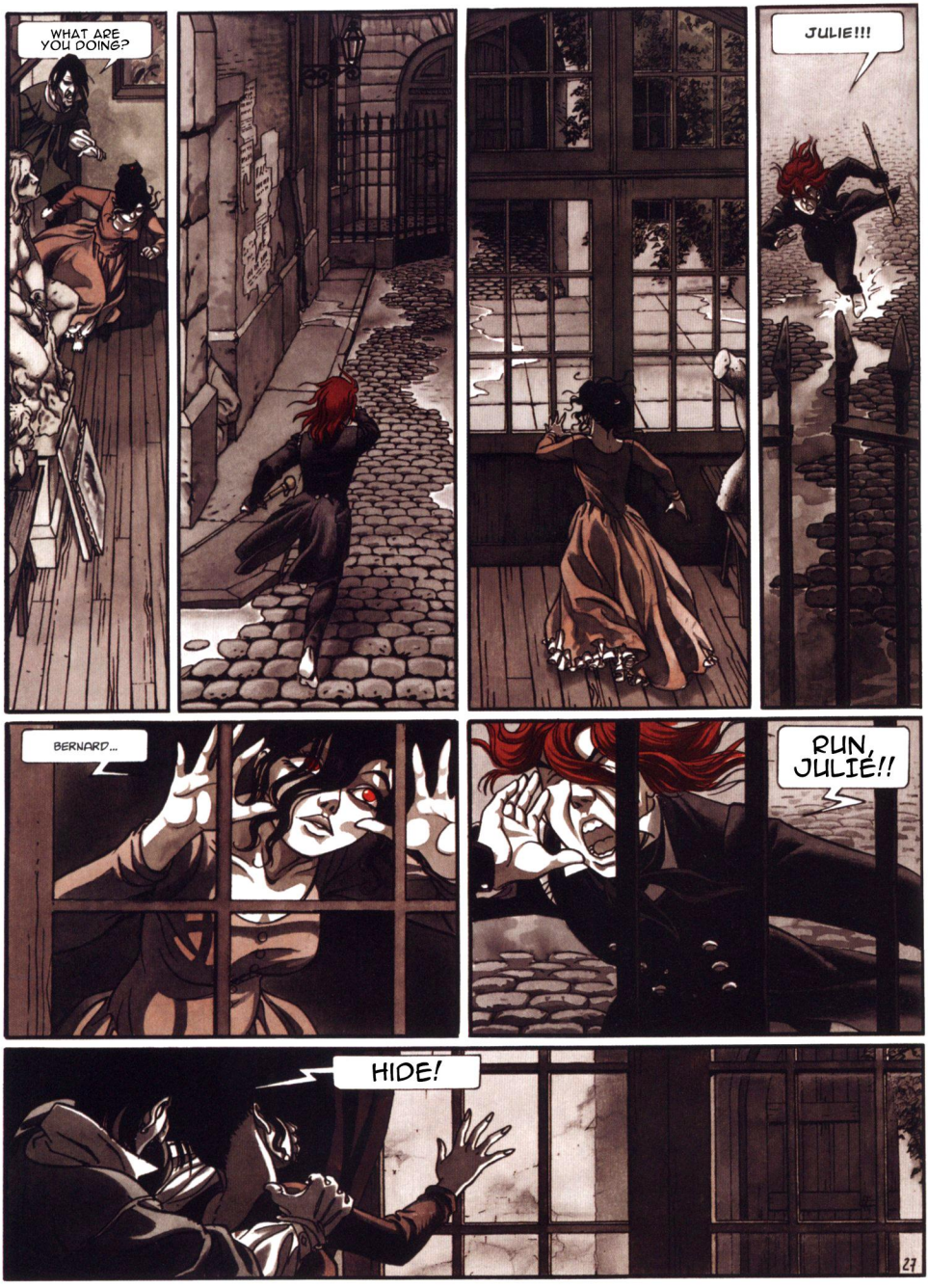
VIEUX
Citoyens de PARIS
GET IN!! ARE YOU TRYING TO GET YOURSELF KILLED?
YOU HAVE TO ADMIT, MY DEAR BERNARD, I'VE BEEN MOST LIKE A FATHER TO YOU!

YOU HAD ME FOLLOWED?
I ADMIT, YOUR ATTITUDE LAST NIGHT AT THE BALL HAD ME WORRIED. THAT ROMANTIC DUEL WITH THE PAINTER VALDIEU... ALL OF PARIS IS TALKING ABOUT IT!...
YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING ME!
I'VE BEEN PROTECTING YOU!
HORACE SAINTANGE, AKA THE VICAR. A MAN OF MANY VICES: STOLEN GOODS, TRAFFICKING, UNDERAGE PROSTITUTION. AND NOW POLICE INFORMANT. SUFFICE IT TO SAY HIS TITLE IS MERELY A POOR COVER FOR HIS CRIMES...
...IN WHICH I'M SURE YOUR DEAR JULIE HAS BEEN INVOLVED. SO I IMAGINE THAT IT WAS HER YOU EXPECTED TO FIND AT HER FATHER'S PLACE?
...HE'S HER FATHER??
DON'T PLAY DUMB, COUSIN BERNARD, IT'S UNBECOMING IN THE PRESENCE OF AN OFFICER OF THE LAW! I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN PURSUING YOUR MOTHER'S KILLER, BUT I MUST SAY YOU ARE GOING ABOUT IT ALL WRONG!
I CAN ONLY HOPE A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP WILL CLEAR YOUR HEAD!...
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT, COUSIN GUIZOT. JULIE IS A CRIMINAL AND IT'S UP TO THE POLICE ALONE TO BRING HER TO JUSTICE.
SEE NOW, THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TO HEAR! PERFECT TIMING, TOO. NOW I CAN TELL YOU: IN AN HOUR OR SO WE EXPECT TO HAVE HER IN CUSTODY, UNHARMED!
THAT'S RIGHT! JUST THIS MORNING THE VICAR SOLD OUT HIS ONLY DAUGHTER TO US...
JULIE! WHERE IS SHE?
NOT SO HASTY! FIRST THANK YOUR COUSIN FOR INVITING YOU TO THAT BALL. A NIGHT SPENT AT YOUR FATHER'S PLACE MAY HAVE BEEN FATAL...
IT SEEMS SHE WAS LIVING WITHIN THOSE SAME WALLS! WHO KNOWS WHY... FIRST TARGET THE MOTHER, THEN THE SON...?
...WITHIN MY WALLS...!!

WHAT'S GOING ON, DRIVER? WE'VE STOPPED MOVING!
PROTESTERS COMING FROM PLACE DE LA CONCORDE, INSPECTOR... THE WHOLE ROAD IS BLOCKED!
THEN USE THE WHIP, GAROT! DISPERSE THESE RABBLE, WE'RE IN A HURRY!
THIS IS MADNESS! WE CAN'T JUST SIT HERE WAITING FOR THE CAVALRY TO RESTORE ORDER...
SHOULD I FOLLOW HIM?
ARE YOU KIDDING? GET SOME REINFORCEMENTS INSTEAD.
THAT IMBECILE IS GOING TO UNWITTINGLY SERVE AS OUR BLOODHOUND!
GOOD THINKING, INSPECTOR!
I'VE ALWAYS SAID, GAROT: TO FIND MISFORTUNE, YOU NEED ONLY FOLLOW WHERE LOVES TAKES YOU!


IT'S ALMOST COMPLETE...
ALMOST!! WHAT USE IS A PORTRAIT THAT ALMOST RESEMBLES THE SUBJECT? ALMOST! THAT'S ALL THAT SEPARATES A MASTER FROM AN AMATEUR, AND A MASTERPIECE FROM SIMPLE GARBAGE!
THE GAZE! I'VE "ALMOST" PERFECTED THE GAZE!
THIS DAMNED POX! I'M LOSING THE USE OF MY HAND...
MAYBE IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I LEFT TONIGHT...
I'M NOT DONE YET!!
BESIDES, THE POLICE WILL SNATCH YOU UP THE SECOND YOU SET FOOT OUTSIDE...
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
NOBODY. C'MON, DO YOU THINK I HAVEN'T NOTICED IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS YOU'VE BEEN LIVING HERE HOW YOU JUMP LIKE A HUNTED BEAST AT EVERY LITTLE NOISE?
FURTHERMORE, YOU'VE NEVER BOTHERED TO LEAVE THIS STUDIO UNLESS IT'S TO RUMMAGE THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE, FROM THE BASEMENT UP TO THE ATTIC.
DON'T DENY IT, I SAW YOU DOING IT! I DON'T CARE ANYWAY. I'M JUST A TENANT. ONLY ONE THING INTRIGUED ME: YOU'VE NEVER STOLEN ANYTHING...
...SO WHAT WERE YOU LOOKING FOR IN THOSE RUINS?

OR RATHER, WHAT DID YOU FIND?
A HUGE FAMILY PORTRAIT...
A PORTRAIT...
YOU'VE CHANGED SINCE THEN. THERE'S DARKNESS CLOUDING YOUR GAZE. A DARKNESS THAT HAS TRAPPED ME, A DARKNESS I CANNOT PAINT...
STOP CRYING FOR GOD'S SAKE!!
GIVE ME TWO DAYS TO FINISH. THEN YOU TOO WILL BE IN A PORTRAIT...
I BEG OF YOU! STAY! I NEED YOU...
IF IT'S TRUE THERE IS AN ALMIGHTY GOD UP THERE WHO CREATED LIGHT AND REVEALED ALL THE UGLINESS OF THE WORLD, THEN WHAT DO I HAVE LEFT TO PAINT BUT DARKNESS?


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
JULIE!!!
BERNARD...
RUN, JULIÉ!!
HIDE!

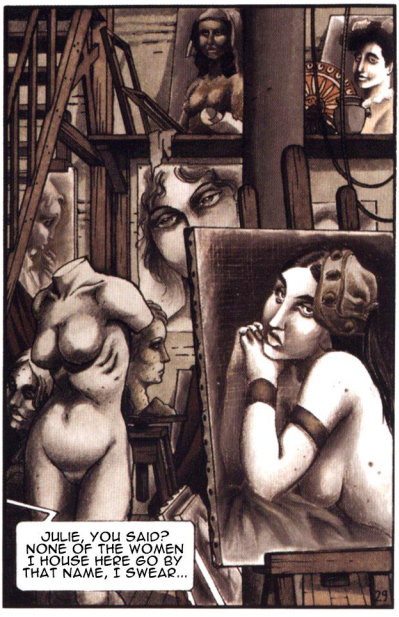
HIDE! NOBODY MUST SEE YOU!
LET GO OF ME!!
TWO MONTHS I'VE BEEN PAINTING YOU... I KNOW EVERY MUSCLE IN YOUR BODY, I'VE CARESSED EVERY ONE OF YOUR EXTREMITIES, VISITED EVERY SUBTLE RIPPLE IN YOUR FLESH...
...AND I'M SUPPOSED TO SHARE THIS INTIMACY? IT WOULD BE AKIN TO PROSTITUTION!!
IF YOU GO OUT THERE, IF YOU SHOW YOURSELF, I'LL KILL YOU!
YOU ARE MY LIBERTY! YOU BELONG TO ME!!
SIR! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
LATER! CLOSE THE DOOR!
AND IF THE POLICE COME, DON'T OPEN IT! STALL THEM!
BUT, SIR...
JUST DO AS I SAY!!

JULIE?

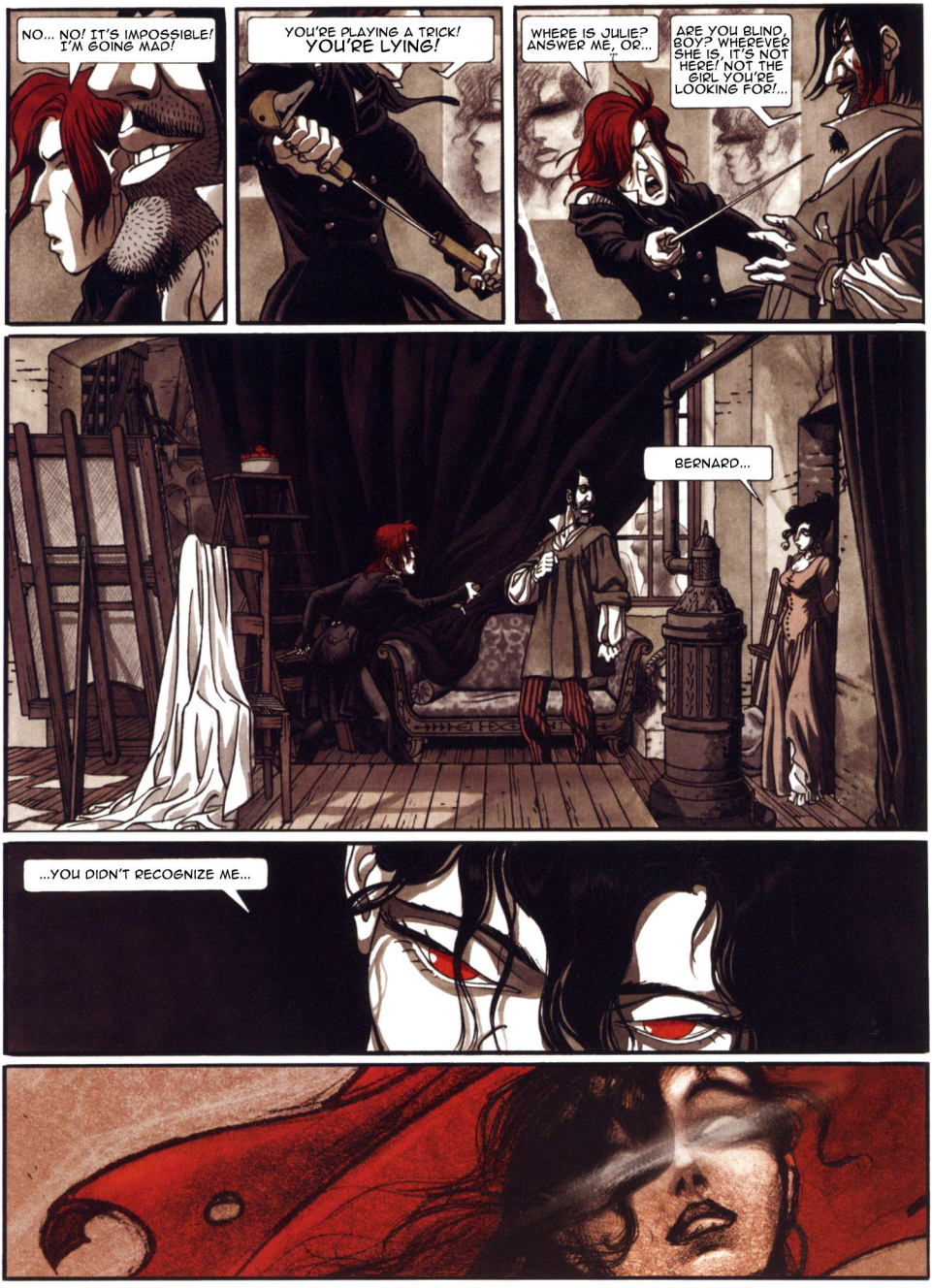
THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU, SIR, YOU WERE SAVING YOUR DEATH FOR A WOMAN... BUT SPENDING YOUR NIGHT WITH ANOTHER...

WHERE IS SHE? I WANT TO SEE HER!!
WHICH ONE DO YOU MEAN THIS TIME?

BLANCHE? EULALIE? ANASTASIE?


JULIE, YOU SAID? NONE OF THE WOMEN I HOUSE HERE GO BY THAT NAME, I SWEAR...

AND IN THE NEXT ROOM?
NOT A STEP FURTHER!
YOU ARE IN MY HOME, SIR, HAVE SOME RESPECT AT LEAST! ...OR WE CAN FORGET HONOR ALTOGETHER!
I BEG OF YOU SIR! JULIE IS IN DANGER! IN AN HOUR OR SO, THE POLICE WILL ARRIVE. THEY'LL TURN THE PLACE UPSIDE DOWN, AND...
REALLY?
IN DANGER? I DON'T THINK SO! TWO MONTHS I'VE KEPT HER HIDDEN, CHERISHED HER, AND I ALONE HAVE BEEN THERE TO DELIGHT IN HER SMILE...
...WHAT COULD SHE HAVE TO FEAR?
WHAT'S THIS? A PAINTING? ARE YOU MOCKING ME?!
A PAINTING? LOOK CLOSER! SEE HOW HER FLESH QUIVERS... COULD YOU SAY SHE IS ANYTHING BUT ALIVE?
YOU WANTED TO SEE HER, RIGHT? THERE SHE IS, THE LAST WOMAN I WAS HIDING!
WHO IS THIS?
LIBERTY, MY DEAR BOY... LADY LIBERTY CIRCA 1848! MY MASTERPIECE...
DO YOU BELIEVE ME NOW? WE COULDN'T BE SPEAKING OF THE SAME WOMAN...


NO... NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I'M GOING MAD!
YOU'RE PLAYING A TRICK! YOU'RE LYING!
WHERE IS JULIE? ANSWER ME, OR...
ARE YOU BLIND, BOY? WHEREVER SHE IS, IT'S NOT HERE! NOT THE GIRL YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!...
BERNARD...
...YOU DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME...

YOU DISOBEYED ME!!...
DON'T TOUCH HER!
YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT? FOR TWO MONTHS SHE'S BEEN UNDRESSING FOR ME!...
HOW CAN YOU BLAME A PAINTER FOR BECOMING INTIMATE WITH HIS MODEL, FOR PROBING EVERY INCH OF HER FLESH?...
STOP! OR I'LL...
OR WHAT? I TOLD YOU, SHE BELONGS TO ME!!

BERNARD! HE WAS GOING TO...
H-HOW COULD YOU...?
FOR YOU, BERNARD! ONLY FOR YOU!...
AND IT WAS A LIE! HE NEVER TOUCHED ME! THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME!...
THE FIRST TIME?...
...THE FIRST TIME THAT YOU'VE KILLED SOMEONE?

THAT'S GUIZOT AND HIS OFFICERS. THEY'RE COMING FOR YOU...
THERE MUST BE A WAY OUT THROUGH THE CELLAR, AN UNDERGROUND PASSAGE...
...THAT LEADS TO THE SEINE. I KNOW. I'VE BEEN SEARCHING THE HOUSE...
THEN GO! HURRY AND GO!! I WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD THEM OFF FOR LONG!...
HOLD ME...
HOLD ME TIGHTLY! THEY'LL PUT CHAINS AROUND MY NECK...
...OF THESE TWO EMBRACES, THAT OF THE HARSH IRON ON MY FLESH WON'T BE THE HARDEST TO BEAR...

...MY LIBERTY...

IT'S NO USE, RODOLPHE!...
YOU'RE RIGHT! EVERYBODY BACK!! WE'LL CONSTRUCT BARRICADES!...
TAKE HEART, BASSET! WITH EACH RETREAT WE ARE MARCHING TOWARD VICTORY!
...BASSET?...
IT'S NOTHING... JUST A STRAY SHOT... ONWARD TO VICTORY, RODOLPHE!
DON'T LET ME SLOW YOU DOWN, I'LL JUST HAVE TO... B-BITE THE BULLET FOR NOW...
QUIET! THAT'S NOT FUNNY...
ONLY THE DEAD ARE LAUGHING DOWN HERE...

BERNARD! COME HAVE SOME DESSERT, DEAR!
I'M NOT HUNGRY, MOTHER!
DON'T BE SILLY! WE'VE GOT CHERRIES! YOU'RE NORMALLY CRAZY ABOUT THEM! COME ON, NOW!
A LETTER FROM PARIS, MADAME.
THAT GOOSE IS STUPID! SHE FOLLOWS BERNARD LIKE HIS SHADOW! WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT HIM?
SHE MUST THINK HE'S HER MOTHER. YOUR BROTHER WAS THE FIRST LIVING THING THAT BIRD SAW WHEN IT WAS BORN. WHITE GEESE ARE LIKE THAT, THEY'LL BECOME ATTACHED TO THE FIRST THING TO PAY THEM ANY MIND!
GO ON, HAVE SOME CHERRIES, GERTRUDE! YOU'RE NORMALLY CRAZY ABOUT THEM!
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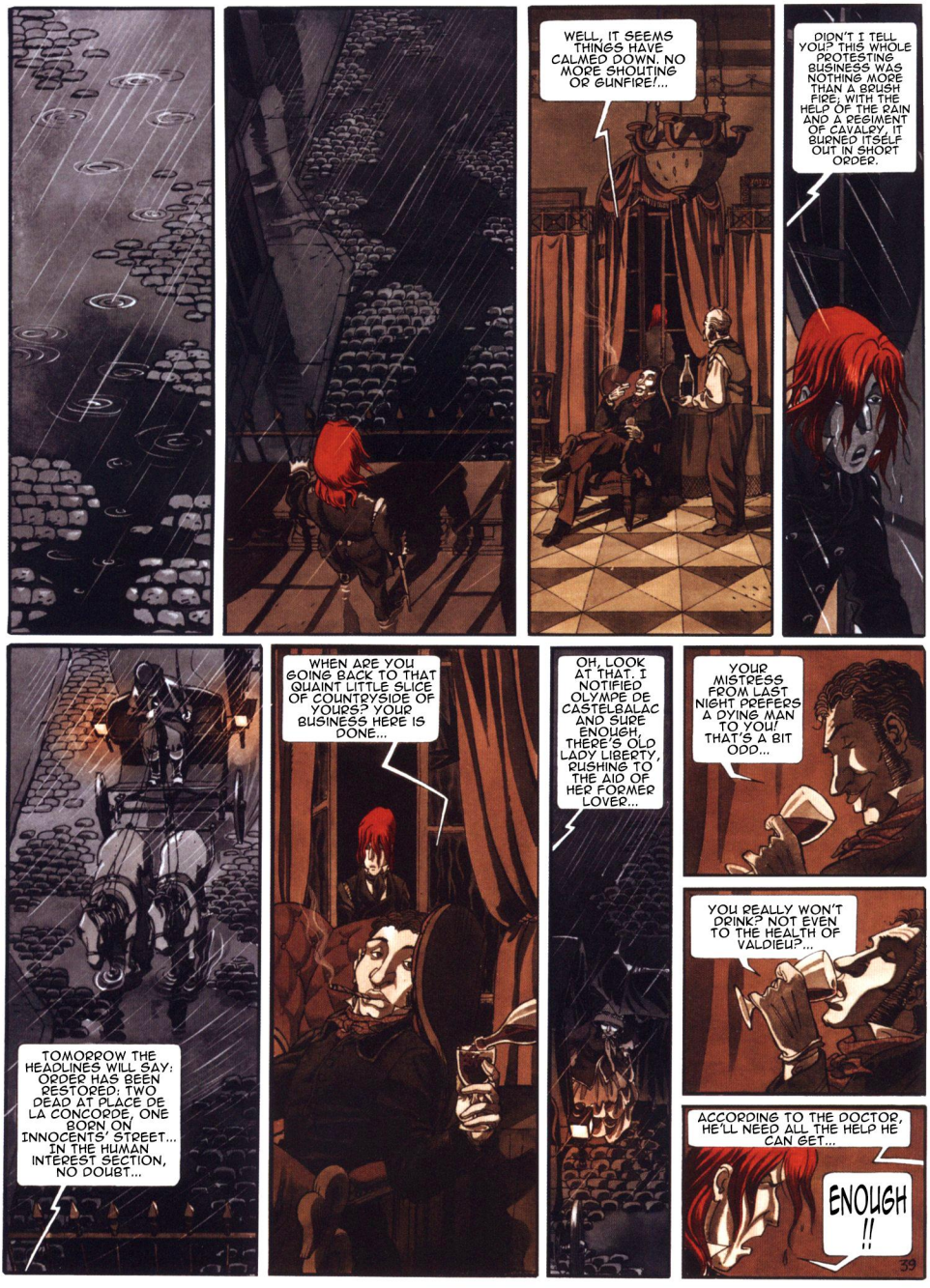

WELL, IT SEEMS THINGS HAVE CALMED DOWN. NO MORE SHOUTING OR GUNFIRE!...
DIDN'T I TELL YOU? THIS WHOLE PROTESTING BUSINESS WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A BRUSH FIRE; WITH THE HELP OF THE RAIN AND A REGIMENT OF CAVALRY, IT BURNED ITSELF OUT IN SHORT ORDER.
TOMORROW THE HEADLINES WILL SAY: ORDER HAS BEEN RESTORED. TWO DEAD AT PLACE DE LA CONCORDE, ONE BORN ON INNOCENTS' STREET... IN THE HUMAN INTEREST SECTION, NO DOUBT...
WHEN ARE YOU GOING BACK TO THAT QUAINT LITTLE SLICE OF COUNTRYSIDE OF YOURS? YOUR BUSINESS HERE IS DONE...
OH, LOOK AT THAT. I NOTIFIED OLYMPE DE CASTELBALAC AND SURE ENOUGH, THERE'S OLD LADY LIBERTY, RUSHING TO THE AID OF HER FORMER LOVER...
YOUR MISTRESS FROM LAST NIGHT PREFERS A DYING MAN TO YOU! THAT'S A BIT ODD...
YOU REALLY WON'T DRINK? NOT EVEN TO THE HEALTH OF VALDIEU?...
ACCORDING TO THE DOCTOR, HE'LL NEED ALL THE HELP HE CAN GET...
ENOUGH !!

EXCUSE ME?
I SAID ENOUGH! YOU'VE DRUNK ENOUGH, IT'S LATE, AND I'M TIRED!
THOUGH I HAVE NOTHING BUT THE UTMOST RESPECT FOR YOUR LATE MOTHER, I MUST SAY, DEAR BOY, THAT YOU ARE SORELY LACKING IN THE MOST ELEMENTARY EDUCATION!
YOUR "EDUCATION" WAS CULTIVATED IN A STABLE, AND YOU'RE TRYING TO LECTURE ME?!
YOU WATCH YOUR TONE, BOY! I AM YOUR ELDER! HAVE YOU LEARNED NOTHING THIS WHOLE TIME?!?
BESIDES, IF THE BASTARD SON OF A STABLEHAND CAN ACQUIRE THE RESPECT OF THE FAMILY, WHAT DOES THAT MAKES YOU, YOU FILTHY DEGENERATE!
SAY THAT AGAIN! I DARE YOU!!
YOU HEARD ME THE FIRST TIME! BESIDES, I HAVE OTHER BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO. GOOD NIGHT, COUSIN!!
OH, I FORGOT...
MY MEN SEARCHED THE GIRL THOROUGHLY BUT THE MURDER WEAPON HAD DISAPPEARED! YOU REMEMBER, THAT OH-SO-RECOGNIZABLE HAIRPIN?
OF COURSE, YOUR TESTIMONY AND THAT OF VALDIEU (IF HE SURVIVES) WOULD BE ENOUGH TO CHARGE HER... BUT THE RED HAIRPIN IS AN IDENTIFYING PIECE OF EVIDENCE THAT WOULD INEXORABLY TIE HER TO THE CRIME OF KILLING YOUR MOTHER. THE ASSAULT AND THE MURDER, WHEN CONSIDERED TOGETHER, WOULD HELP REACH A MORE FITTING VERDICT...
HARD LABOR, OR THE GALLOWS? WITHOUT THAT PIECE OF EVIDENCE, JULIE'S FATE IS NOT YET SEALED!

AT THE END OF THE STREET, GO RIGHT. NEVER CAN TRUST THOSE MILITARY TYPES!...

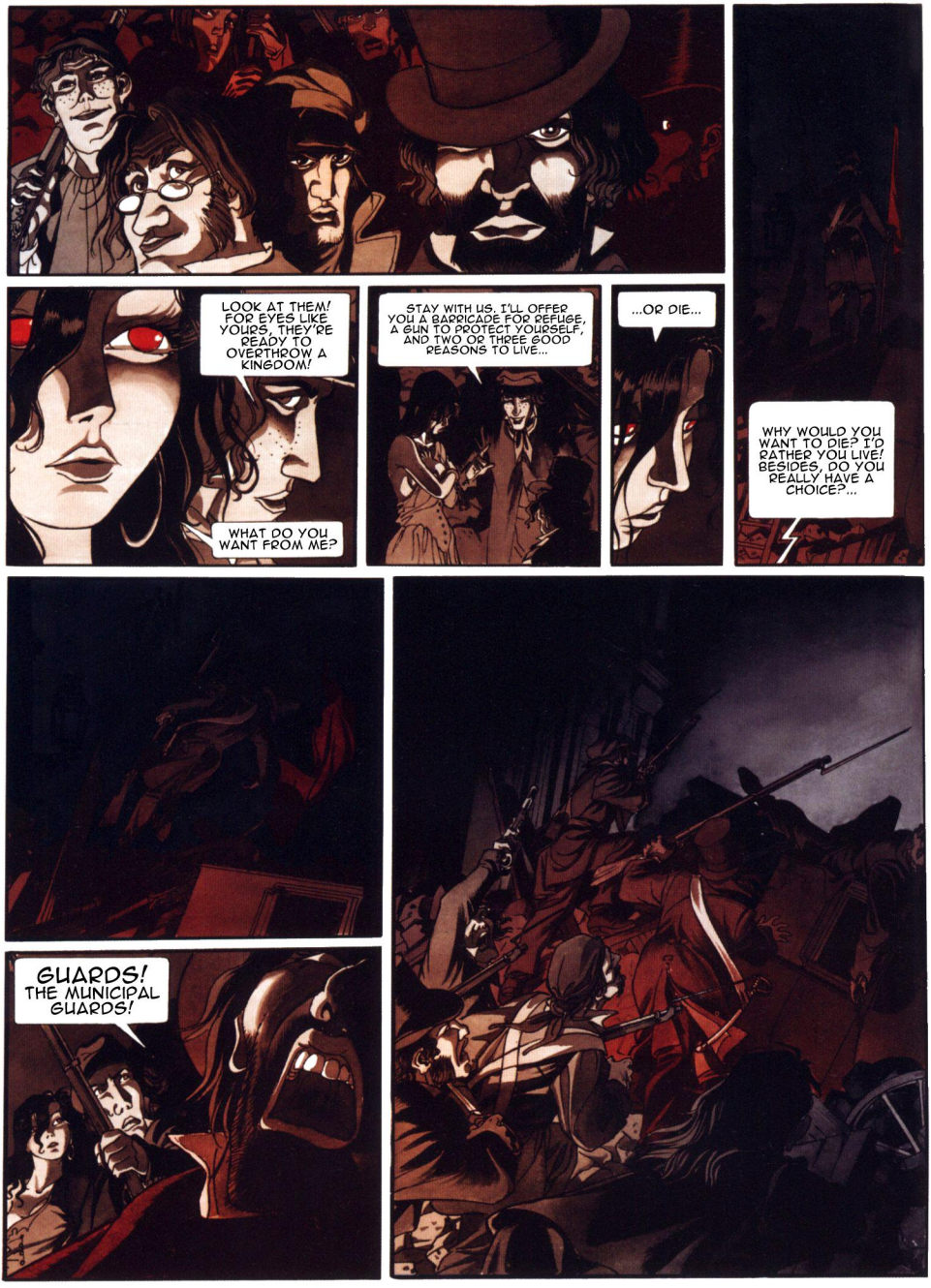
MOTHER! WHAT'S IT SAY?
IT'S FROM FATHER, ISN'T IT? WHEN IS HE COMING HOME?
SOON, MY DEAR, SOON! PARIS CAN'T KEEP HIM FOREVER...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
I FEAR YOUR FATHER MAY NOT FINISH THAT DAMNED BOOK OF HIS, SARAH...
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT? THE WAR OF EYES IS HIS WHOLE LIFE! THAT BOOK IS LIKE THE APPLE OF HIS EYE!!
DON'T BE SO SURE, THERE'S MUCH MORE TO HIS EYES... THAN THAT BOOK...
MOTHER! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?...
LOOK, SARAH! LOOK AT ME!!
BERNARD! STOP THAT RIGHT NOW! STOP!!!

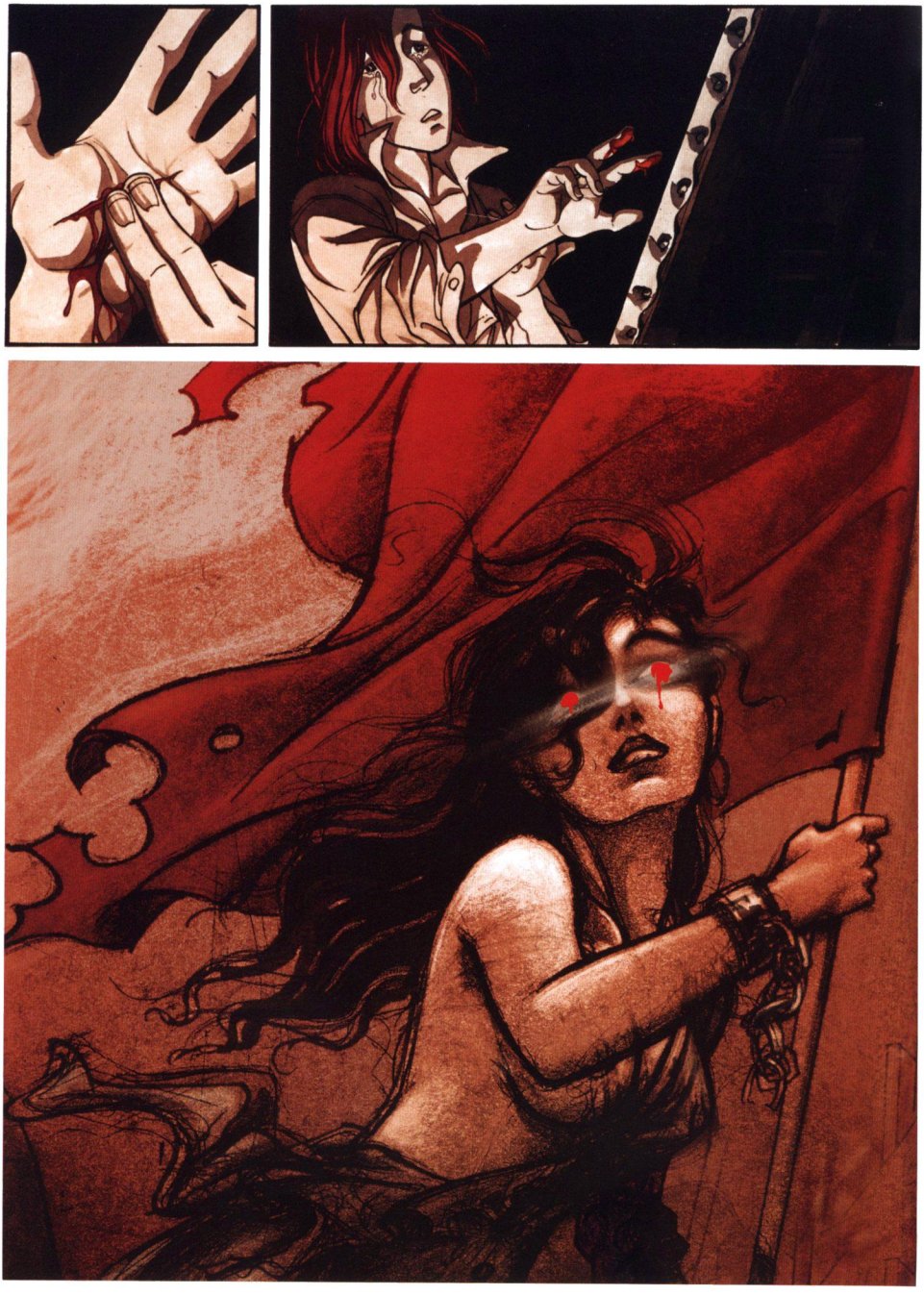
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, BERNARD? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
...
YOU DIDN'T DEFEND ME... DAMMIT, I SWEAR YOU'LL BE THE LAST OF THE SAMBRES!...
I WON'T ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO BE BORN INTO CHAINS!

WELL?
BAD NEWS, RODOLPHE. BASSET SUCCUMED TO HIS INJURIES...
THE PAINTER VALDIEU SAID THERE WOULD BE MARTYRS...
BUT IT ONLY FURTHERS OUR CAUSE, RIGHT RODOLPHE? YOU GOT NOTHING TO SAY?...
TO ARMS, COMRADES!!
TURN AROUND QUICKLY!!
IMPOSSIBLE! THE ROAD'S TOO NARROW AND...
IN THE NAME OF THE REPUBLIC, FREE YOUR PRISONERS!

AH, IT'S ONLY A SINGLE PRISONER! BUT SHE'S BEAUTIFUL! THIS IS BETTER THAN I COULD HAVE IMAGINED...
YOU'DE GOING TO HELP ME! YOU OWE ME, RIGHT?
COMRADES! LOOK!!...
IS THIS GIRL NOT THE PERFECT SYMBOL OF OUR IMPENDING VICTORY?

IT'S FINALLY STOPPED RAINING...
THAT'S SOME FINE LUCK, ISN'T IT? NOW YOU WON'T GET SOAKED ON YOUR WAY TO THE MARQUIS' HOUSE, RIGHT MONA?
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU HIDING NOW? MONA!
YOU LITTLE PEST! YOU KNOW THAT'S OFF LIMITS!
SORRY, FATHER! I'M SORRY!!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT. I WARNED YOU, MONA. IF YOU GO IN THAT ROOM, YOU'RE GOING TO STAY THERE THE ENTIRE NIGHT!
FORGIVE ME FATHER! I'M SCARED! I'M SCARED OF THE DARK!
THEN PRAY, MONA! PRAY...
...IN A WIDOW'S CHAMBERS, IT IS ALWAYS DARK...


LOOK AT THEM! FOR EYES LIKE YOURS, THEY'RE READY TO OVERTHROW A KINGDOM!
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
STAY WITH US. I'LL OFFER YOU A BARRICADE FOR REFUGE, A GUN TO PROTECT YOURSELF, AND TWO OR THREE GOOD REASONS TO LIVE...
...OR DIE...
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DIE? I'D RATHER YOU LIVE! BESIDES, DO YOU REALLY HAVE A CHOICE?...
GUARDS! THE MUNICIPAL GUARDS!

STAY BACK!!
I STILL NEED YOU!!
HEY!
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?
DON'T SHOOT!
DON'T SHOOT!

...MY LIBERTY...
I'M HERE, EGON! I'M HERE!
HE CAN'T HEAR YOU, MADAME. BUT BELIEVE ME, HE DIED HAPPY...